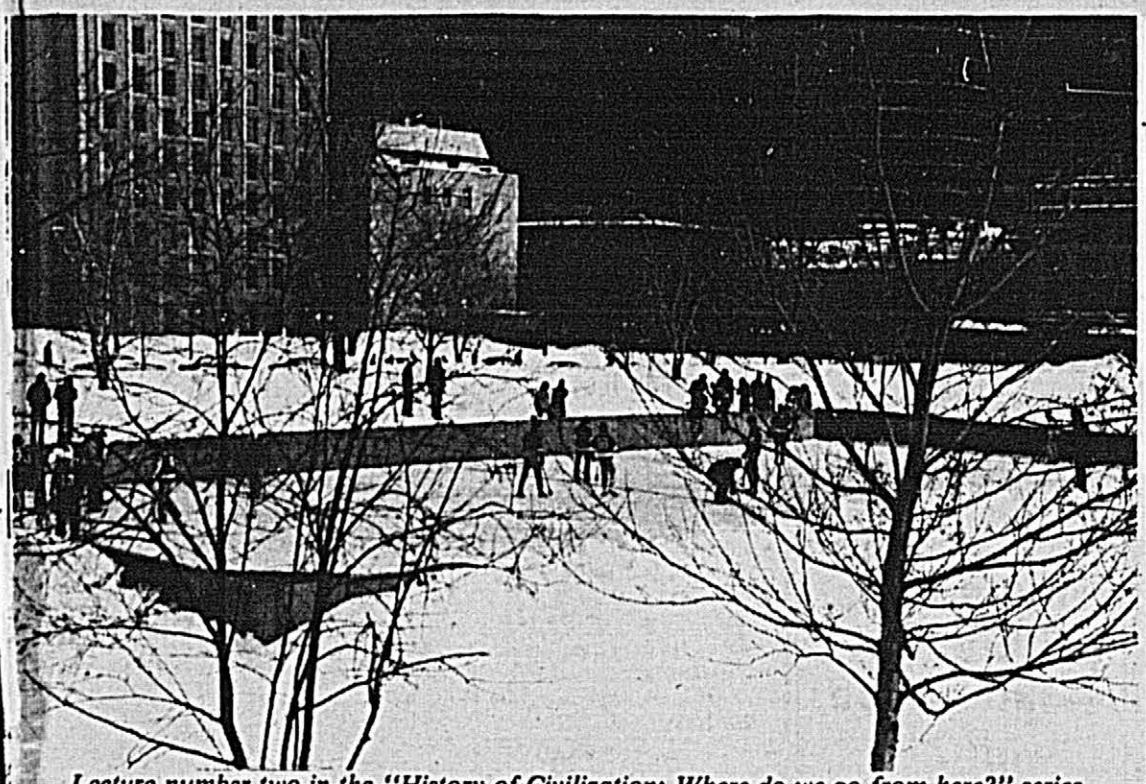
The McGill Daily

Canada's Only Students' Daily

Second class mail registration no.5217

Vol. 71, No.70 | Friday, February 19, 1982 | Montreal



Lecture number two in the "History of Civilization: Where do we go from here?" series.
He: "Broomball?"
She: "Quest for fire?"

"Draconian" trial

Judge tells Regalado to walk

by Suzy Goldenberg

Victor Manuel Regalado Brito received his deportation order Wednesday, but his trials are far from over.

Adjudicator Patricia Ellis ordered the Salvadorean journalist deported on the basis of a "section 39" certificate, a document signed by Minister of Immigration Lloyd Axworthy and Solicitor-General Robert Kaplan attesting to Regalado's security risk should he remain in Canada.

In a trial that human rights activists termed "draconian", Ellis handed down the verdict which will have Regalado transported back to El Salvador. Regalado was granted Convention refugee status earlier this month.

According to Dominique Boivin of La Ligue des Droits et Libertés, the co-ordinator of the campaign to keep him in the country, Regalado was refused permission to testify at his own hearing.

A second inquiry Wednesday explored Regalado's possible release from Parthenais jail. Regalado has been detained at the Montréal prison since the beginning of January. This time Regalado was allowed to testify on his own behalf.

Some of the signatories of the petition sponsoring Regalado while he remains in Canada, spoke for him.

François Martin, director of Amnesty International, and Frances Fournier, president of the Québec Human Rights Commission, said that Regalado was not violent or a threat to security.

Fournier said that she would take Regalado into her own home, should he be allowed to settle here.

Regalado's lawyers are considering all legal means to allow him to remain in the country. An appeal against the deportation order was filed yesterday, according to Noelle Saint-Pierre, Regalado's lawyer.

Saint-Pierre was concerned that Regalado would be deported quickly, before there is time to process an appeal. He added said that Regalado is not looking for a country of refuge should he be forced to leave Canada.

"There is hope for Regalado," said Saint-Pierre. The certificate which binds the adjudicator may not be applicable to the Immigration Appeal Board.

Although Ellis had to comply with the certificate during the initial inquiries, the certificate may not over-rule the immmigration board.

Other grounds for hope come from the political sphere.

Dan Heap, federal NDP immigration critic, believes there are other avenues open to the Salvadorean. According to Heap, Solicitor General Kaplan has indicated that he would introduce a system to review the evidence against Regalado, probably in a closed hearing.

The minister for immigration characteristically gave little definite reason for hope, said Heap.

During Wednesday's question period in the House of Commons, Heap said that Axworthy "dodged" questions,

continued on page 8

Fr. Can. Studies to lose administrator

by Richard Flint

Budget cuts will claim one more position at the Centre for French Canadian Studies next year, but the Centre and the University administration claim that teaching will not be affected.

The position of administrative assistant at the Centre will be eliminated. "There were rumours for the last few weeks that the position would be cut. We didn't want to talk about it, but now it's official," said Louise Hébert, a student at the Centre.

The Centre is already feeling the strain of University cuts, which have resulted in the non-replacement of academic staff who leave the centre.

"At the moment we are at the minimum," said Hébert. "For next year there will be a director, half-time, no administrative assistant and the part-time secretary will become full-time."

"Right now the cutbacks will be a minimum of 28 per cent, maybe more, for next year. Last year the cuts were 33 per cent. If you add them up that's 61 per cent in two years," noted Hébert.

According to Arts Dean Michael Maxwell, "it's 61 per cent if you look at it that way. It's the same for all small departments; one person cut can mean 50 per cent.

"You get screams from every department who lose somebody. If we could have more money to replace people...but there's no other way to save money. Where else can you get money? Other ways would affect students. If one's budget is cut by five per cent either we have to send away employed people or rely upon people who don't want to be employed," Maxwell said.

For the forthcoming year the Centre will be able to offer the same number of courses as this year.

"This year we have the lowest number of courses offered since 1970 — 15. It seems as if we have a guarantee that this number of courses will be maintained next year," said Hébert.

This was confirmed by Yvon Lamonde, director of the Centre.

"I've obtained guarantees for next year that we are going to have all our courses given. These are the important things, we are a teaching unit," he said.

The future looks bleak for the 19-year old Centre. Founded amidst the great education expansion of thew 1960s, it could become one of the first victims of present day compression and cuts.

"I've tried to get guarantees for next year, but I haven't been able to get anything. We will have to fight again, and see what we can do to persuade and involve other students and professors working on Québec," said Lamonde.

"There is a minimum under which there will be real problems and I, personally, think we have touched it, we have reached it,she said."

"There hasn't been a single course in this programme cut this year," said Maxwell. "That's the point I'd like to get across. I am desperately trying to maintain the entire programme, and will do the best I can. I cannot give a guarantee for next year to anybody, I cannot predict the future."

"This is just a start," said Hébert. "The centre could still go down the drain in 1984. Next year there will be other negotiations about cutbacks."

"It's not only the programme, it's the place, the identity, the house where students can exchange ideas and talk," said Hébert.

"The centre isn't just for the study of francophone Québec, but for all of Québec society. There are two courses in

continued on page 9

Profs in furor over sabbaticals

by Moira Ambrose

McGill professors are in a quandry over the increasing number of rejections of sabbatical leave applications by the administration.

The confusion over requirements for accepting sabbatical leave applications was called a "muddy" situation by Professor Paddy Webb-Hearsey, President of the McGill Faculty Union (MFU).

"Originally, only 60 per cent of the applications for sabbatical leave this year had been approved," said Webb-Hearsey.

"The Board of Governors discussed applications that were re-submitted at their meeting on Monday and the results have not yet been made public," she said.

Sabbatical leave allows professors to take time off from teaching to study or do research in their field. When leave is granted, the university must either replace the vacant positions or cancel courses taught by the professors on leave.

This year's figure of a 60 percent acceptance rate of sabbatical leave applications contrasts with last year's approval rate of almost 80 per cent. Last year's figure was quoted by Principal Johnston at a recent Senate meeting.

At that meeting, John Harrod, president of the McGill Association of University Teachers (MAUT), expressed the dissatisfaction of several faculty members over the rejection of many sabbatical applications this year.

According to Principal Johnston, last year's applications were discussed informally and results were verbally communicated to the applicants. No written records of the reviewing process were kept.

Professor Jagdish Handa, MAUT's vp internal affairs, said, "This year, the administration wants to keep for-

continued on page 8

Daily Staff Meetings

Two of 'em today: At 1:00 we warm up with a little head-knocking session for news writers and editors, then at 3:00 we *really* crank it up with an old-fashioned staff meeting.

Inside:Science Edition

Classified

341 — APTS., ROOMS, HOUSING

Two room-mates looking for third. March and April. 5-1/2 on Durocher. $140 each month, includes utilities. Completely furnished. Call 843-6214.

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370 - RIDES

I have room for 12 people to New York City. Departing Thursday, Feb. 25, $50 plus accomodation. Call Rick, 845-7506 or 282-9248.

Ride Needed to Maine for the weekend of Feb. 25 to 28. I will share expenses. Call Rob at 286-0298.

372 - LOST AND FOUND

Calculator found on Stanley and Sherbrooke on Feb. 16th in the morning. Call 842-5431 ex. 236 ask for Joanne.

Student who came to Students' Society looking for lost hat and gloves. It has been found. Ask for Joann.

Lost Thursday, Feb. 11th in the Union, Gold Cross Pen with name, S.H. Muzaffarr engraved on it. I found please return to Students' Society Office.

Reward for the return of a calculator, lost on Friday, Feb. 12 in Currie Gym. Great sentimental and practical value. If found, contact Bruce 286-8245.

Lost. Dull green binder with all my notes. Please phone 843-5053.

Found: 1 ring, Burnside Hall, phone 286-1442.

374 - PERSONAL

Roxanne, you are driving me insane. I pray and beseech you to reveal your true self, else I shall be left to Bedlam. Love, Cyrano.

Did you know that the Catholics in Europe are more liberal than the Protestants?? Up or down, you really add a dimension. Happy 19th - S.

To Chuck: Why celebrate one birthday a year when you can celebrate 364 un-birthdays? It's time to un-celebrate! Love, Mom.

Mail-order Groom 30 years old finishing Medical School. No problems with social life. Difficulty finding mate independently interested in self-sufficient rural lifestyle, making babies and active participation in their education. Send picture and address. Will reciprocate. André P.O. Box 24, Côte St. Luc H4V 1H8.

385 - NOTICES

One month adventure to a tow 7000 ft. in the Himalayas of Indi. departs summer '82. Complete cost including airfare via Europe, $1,765. Info: Jim Pilaar, C.C., Trent University, Peterboro, Ont. K9J 7B8 (705) 742-4888 / 748-5488.

$200.00 Reward if you can identify car that hit blue Honda early Saturday morning on Aylmer. 287-9082.

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Looking for anyone interested in learning word processing on the computer. Secretaries, non-typists welcome. Call 392-8819 to sign up.

Anyone interested in Mojo membership call Capt. Don Baker (842-3613).

Women's Art Therapy Group for self exploration through art. Tuesday evenings starting March 2. For information call Tamara Reznick 272-3853 or Lise Martin 486-6795.

Bird Watching, An Introduction To - Talk and slide presentation by Guy Huot, ornithologist and Michel Julien, photographer, at College Marie-Victorin, 7000 Marie-Victorin 7:30 to 10:30. In French but with simultaneous translation. Reservations recommended. 325-0150, ext. 339. $3.50.

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These weekends are courtesy of Gray Rocks Inn St. Jovite - Mt. Tremblant, Quebec.

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SCIENCE EDITION

Dioxin not delectable dinner

by Richard Gold

Dioxin is quite possibly the deadliest chemical ever made by man. Five milligrams, about the weight of a couple of grains of sand, is more than enough to kill the hardiest of people. It is 500 hundred times more toxic than strychnine and 10,000 more times more lethal than cyanide.

Dioxin is certainly the most dangerous of the PCBs (polychlorinated biphenols), those nasty chemicals often mentionned in the same breath as dump sites such as Love Canal. PCBs are present all around us in the environment. They are used to insulate the transformers at McGill since they are so stable. The only problem is that they are lethal.

In addition, dioxin is present in the herbicides used along roads and borders, as well as in those used to spray apples and other fruit.

Dioxin, or more correctly 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo *para*-dioxin is a biproduct in the manufacture of the herbicides 2,4,5-T and fenoprop. The former is one the prime ingredients in Agent Orange, the infamous chemical sprayed over Vietnam and more recently along Canada's east coast.

During the Vietnamese War over 110 kg of dioxin was dropped as a contaminant in Agent Orange. After spraying the number of stillbrirths per thousand doubled and the incedence of cleft palate and spina bifida tripled.

Some of the other effects of this heat, acid and base sensitive chemical are even more alarming. Any single dose over the 1-100 *millionth* of a gram per kg body weight range, will cause a progressive and drastic loss of between 25 and 33% of the victim's body weight. This is usually followed by anorexia and always results in death within a few weeks.

In doses of a hundred times below the lethal dose the most common effect is a disorder called chloroacne which consists of eruptions on the face neck and back. This is most probably the result of the body trying to expel the dioxin from the body.

Dioxin also causes atrophy of the kidney, thymus and lymphoid organs and tissues, ulceration of the stomach, haemorrhages of the gastrointestinal tract as well as damage to liver enzymes.

Prior to 1970 there was up to 100 parts per million of dioxin in the herbicide 2,4,5-T. It is now claimed that there is under 0.1 ppm dioxin but some recent samples tested have contained about 1 ppm.

The half-life of dioxin, or the amount of time required for half the dioxin to decompose, is one to one and a half years. Since it is insoluble in water it tends to stay in the same place it was dropped, and thus accumalates in the soil.

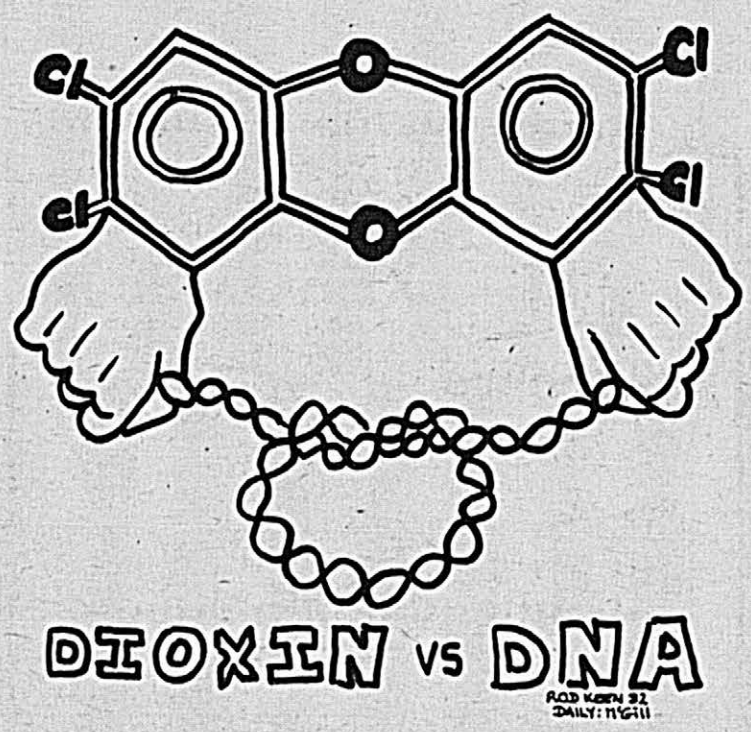
In 1976 a chemical plant in Seveso, Italy, blew up, releasing a cloud of chemicals including dioxin. As a result of the accident there was a large outbreak of chloroacne, especially among children. Domestic animals died even several kilometers from the plant. There was an increase in nervous disorders and the damage to internal organs.

Dioxin was also reported to have been released in a transformer fire in Toronto in December 1977. An official reported, however, that dioxin had not been positively identified.

Only Dow Chemical in the U.S. currently manufactures 2,4,5-T in the whole of North America. It is then imported into Canada and packaged here.

The dioxin molecule is highly symmetrical. It consists of two benzene rings joined together by two neighbouring oxygen bridges. Two chlorine atoms are bonded to each ring exactly opposite from the oxygen bridges.

There are several alternatives to the use of dioxin containing herbicides such as Amcide, Glyphosphate and Krenite. The disadvantage of these chemicals is that they are costly, especially Amcide which must be applied to cut surfaces instead of leaf surfaces.



The advantages of these herbicides is their lower toxicity than dioxin.

Dioxin is a real danger. Its stability, although an asset in transformers, means it stays in the environment for a long time. No one knows what the final toll of dioxin will be. It might take years to find out for sure if dioxin is carcenogenic, as is expected, and just how dangerous it is.

Dioxin and all PCBs are known to cause thinning of bird shells. What other environmental effects these chemicals will have might take years to surface.

If no alternatives existed we would be in severe trouble. Fortunately some alternatives do exist. When dealing with a substance so toxic we should not even take chances with parts per million.

Sick and tired - soon to be sick

Chemical dumps. Environmental contamination. Health hazards. Pollution.

You're sick of hearing about these things, right?

In this day and age, you run a good chance of *becoming* sick if you *don't* hear about these issues.

That, in a nutshell, is the reasoning behind this week's Science Edition. We're all sick and tired of hearing about environmental hazards. Yet knowing a modern catechism of ecological horrors is vital to a person's survival in this crazy world.

And a crazy world it is.

We live in a city that pours its stinking wastes practically untreated into the river that serves as its water supply, that values a sports complex more highly than the health of its inhabitants.

We live in a province that has more hydroelectric power than almost any place on Earth, yet insists on inflicting two nuclear reactors on its taxpayers.

We live in a country of beautiful lakes, lakes that are being acidified and slain at least in part by the actions of our closest ally.

We live in a technological society in which breathtaking new labour-saving devices may bring hidden threats to health.

We live in a world in which the two largest powers feel that there isn't enough environmental contamination, so they are stockpiling toxins and gases specifically designed to despoil, pollute, and kill.

Arrgghhh!

Screaming, jumping up and down and gnashing one's teeth may be called for, but it won't solve anything. Neither will retreating into a shell-shocked apathy. What is needed is an iron commitment to the environment. Cutting costs now by say, reducing government's environmental protection budgets, or by easing legislated environmental standards, will only result in enormous health bills in the future. The World Health Organization estimates that roughly 90% of cancers result from environmental factors.

Last month, three Harvard biochemists published a paper describing how they have succeeded in developing a mutant strain of the organism *Pseudomonas* capable of detoxifying the potent defoliant and herbicide 2,4,5-T, alias Agent Orange. The scientists made use of organisms found growing near toxic chemical dump sites such as Love Canal, New York.

The articles in this Edition are but samples in the broad spectrum of environmental abuse that exists today. We must make a concerted effort *now*to ensure that the chemicals we introduce into the ecosystem will not come back to haunt our children, and to start working on the toxins already at large before they start working on us.

Bill Sheffield
Richard Gold



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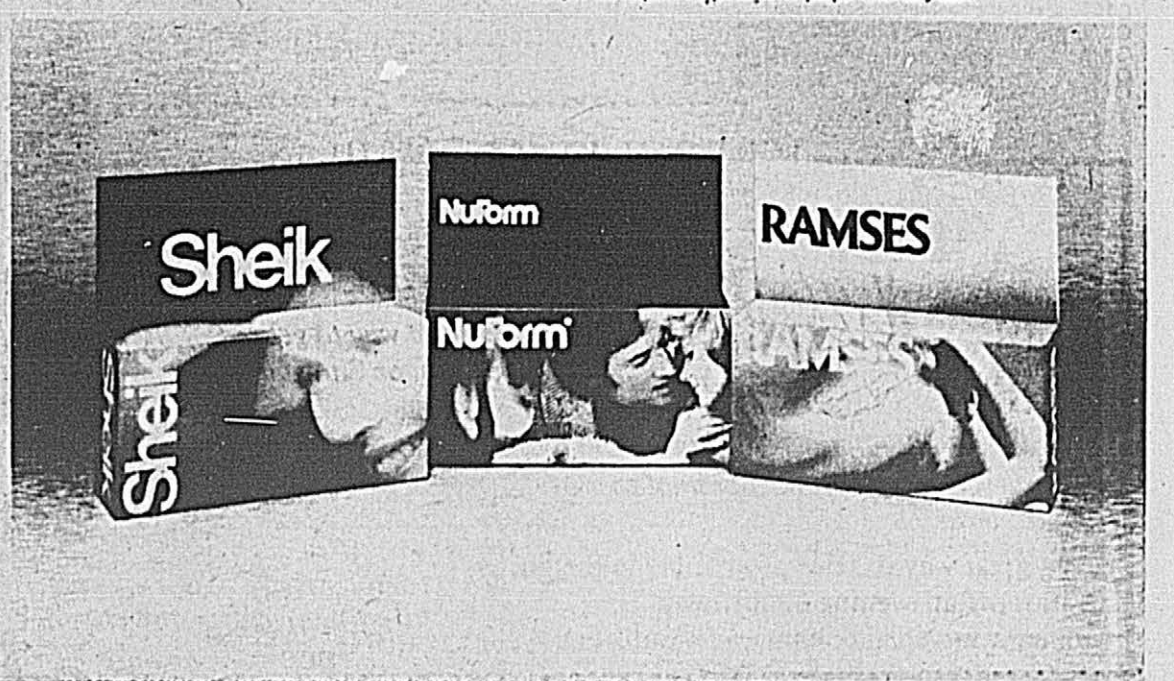
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SCIENCE EDITION

Leaning on dirty industry

by Moira Ambrose

As pollution and industrial waste dumping become increasing hazards to the environment, the federal government and several provinces have passed "get tough" laws and rendered landmark court decisions to help combat the problem. Provincial officials hope that stricter laws and penalties will encourage corporations to be cautious in their waste disposal policies and more aware of their possible danger to the environment.

In mid-1981, British Columbia increased the amount of its pollution fines ten-fold. Under the federal Pollution Control Act of Canada, fines for dumping toxic waste were $10,000 a day. According to the new provincial law, polluting corporations and their individual officers can be charged as much as $100,000 a day for unsafe contributions to the environment.

David Aldcroft, a Vancouver resident and birdwatcher, decided to by-pass bureaucratic legislation and handle waste disposal violators himself. He initiated the first citizen's suit under the federal Fisheries Act because he was angry at the government's failure to protect Fraser River's salmon resource.

The coho salmon were being poisoned by toxic black leachate from a nearby landfill site. The leakage was expected to continue for three to four years. After the court decision, the company had to pay a $28,000 fine and Aldcroft collected $14,000 for his work as an environmental bounty hunter.

In January 1981, the federal Ministry of the Environment established a "pollution police force." Thirteen officers of the Ministry went back to school at the Ontario police college to learn investigative techniques and enough legislative knowledge to rectify the ministry's poor record in court. With promises of "we're going to get tough" and "we won't be such nice guys to industry anymore," the pollution bobbies attacked their first assignment of hazardous dumping of liquid wastes.

The officers' pollution policing duties will include taking aerial photographs to look for chemical stains on the ground and seizing company books for audit. The officers were also warned during their two week training session to be wary of any statements made by company-hired consultants.

The major task of the anti-pollution force is surveillance of suspected midnight dumpers - truckers who empty tankers of garbage and waste into fields, streams and sewers. This problem is especially prevalent in Ontario where half the province's annual 250 million litres of chemical waste are deposited in landfill sites. The force is concentrating its efforts in southern Ontario because, due to midnight dumping, toxic wastes from the Niagara Peninsula have been found in the Niagara River and as far away as Kingston.

The Ministry of the Environment also proposed minimum fines of $2,000 for violators of waste laws. Following the national precedent, the Québec government tightened control on hazardous waste disposal and pollution in its Environment Quality Act. Although this law is primarily directed toward regulating atmospheric pollution, it gives the provincial government power to enact laws concerning factory emissions and waste disposal as the need arises.



Don't blame all of this pollution on us.....It's those stinking fish!

Two landmark court cases have recently shown that courts, too, are out to "get tough" with industrial dumping and polluting policies.

Inco, Ltd. received fines of $19,500 for breaches in provincial pollution laws. Located near Sudbury, Ontario, sulphur dioxide fumes emitted from a superstack at Inco's Copper Cliff Smelter covered the town with soot. After residents lodged several complaints with the Ministry of the Environment, Inco was taken to court.

In May 1980, after a two-year court battle, the Ministry issued a new pollution order requiring Inco to keep emissions to 2,500 tons a day and 1,950 tons by the end of 1982. The company must also keep ground-level concentrations of sulphur dioxide below specified levels. In order to abide by the order, Inco's environmental control officers assess weather forecasts daily and inform smelter supervisors of the level of emissions permitted by atmospheric conditions. During hot, sunny days, the company is frequently forced to order production cutbacks.

In another recent court decision, Judge E. F. Wren ruled that a suspended sentence against Canada Metal Company, Ltd. is not harsh enough to deter other corporations from similar dumping violations. On an appeal from the Ministry of the Environment, Wren decided that the company should be fined $5,500. The judge said that the Environmental Protection Act is designed to control not only lead, but other polluting emissions throughout Ontario. Wren emphasized the fact that pollution is increasingly becoming a national and international problem and should not be dealt with solely on the provincial level.

As industries continue to expand, their need to dump waste and find storage space for their toxic by-products will continue to grow. However, companies' awareness of how to safely dispose of refuse needs to grow at a pace equal to their expansion. It is unfortunate that harsh fines and strict laws are necessary to force corporation executives to think of public safety, but harsh fines and strict laws are better than radioactive backyards.

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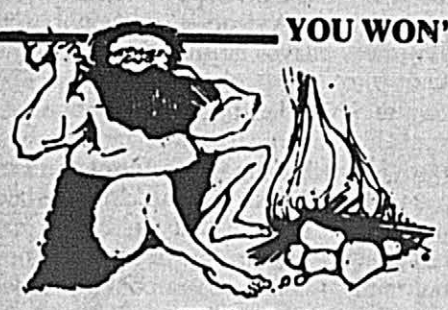
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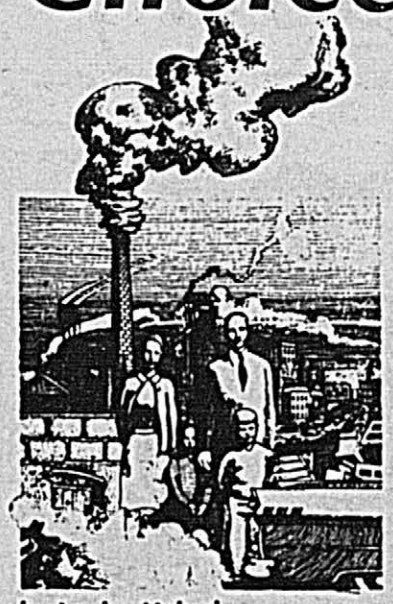
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SCIENCE EDITION

Choice of Blainville vindicated



by Louise Haberl

What's square,controversial, and soon to be located in Blainville, northeast of Montreal? It is Stablex Canada's toxic waste treatment plant which, although the centre of much debate last spring, has been given the go-ahead by the Quebec government.

The consideration of Blainville as a location for the plant initiated a controversy last May when a confidental Quebec Ministry of the Enviroment report deemed the site's soil conditions unsuitable.

The Ministry's report stated that drainage from the disposed waste chemicals could seep through the clay soil within 18 years, thereby polluting the water table below.

In contrast, Stablex's own studies showed that it would take a thousand years for any chemical leak to drain through the soil and damage the water table.

After much debate among the Ministry, Stablex, Montreal Gazette reporters, certain anti-pollution groups, and the citizens of Blainville, Stablex was granted permission to build its toxic waste plant on the controversial site.

...In face of the fact that a government report indicated the location to be unsuitable, why did Quebec on May 14 of last year okay the plant's construction?

Quebec Ministry of the Environment official Michel Gauvin explains the decision by pointing out that the government study was "so preliminary that we couldn't make any kind of conclusion.(With that kind of study) we don't have enough information to conclude anything."

Gauvin stressed that because the study was preliminary, the results could have been interpreted to indicate possible damage to the water table within 18 years, or no damage at all within a period of a thousand years.

Jean Godin, an official with Stablex, elaborated upon the interpretation of the government report:

"It was a battle of... a quarrel of geologists. One of them said 18 years, the other three said a thousand. You read about 18 years in the newspaper."

Godin feels that news reports in the Montreal Gazette and other papers provided "false information" about the govenment study, resulting in an unnecessary controversy over the Blainville site.

In contrast to the government's and Stablex's interpretation of the report, Society To Overcome Pollution (STOP)president Daniel Green stated in a May 28, 1981 Gazette article.

"Stablex did only very preliminary studies on the Blainville site. They said it would take 1,000 years for the chemicals to reach underground water. A government study says it would more likely take 25 years. That's a 1,975-year error."

Another STOP official, Charles Mallory, explained recently that the study was not made on the site that was actually chosen. The choice of sites, according to Mallory, was made with no knowledge of soil suitability or potential damage to the water table.

Both sides of the above controversy likely contain some truth. Fortunately for both Stablex and the Quebec government, the geological questions which formed a large part of the controversy have been answered.

The results of an extensive study on the Blainville site's soil this past summer showed that the soil is indeed suitable for waste deposition.

(Although the study was paid for by Stablex, it was subcontracted to an engineering firm, which itself commissioned two universities and two independent labs to perform the geological measurements.)

Stablex's Jean Godin described the level of impermeability of the soil:

"If ever a drop of water contaminated with, say, a bit of arsenic went through 12 meters of clay, it would take at least 2,000 years to do so."

Godin also pointed out that dilution of the contaminated water by substances in the soil would likely render the potential pollutant harmless.

All's well that ends well for the Quebec government and Stablex, at least for the time being. Blainville would seem to be a relatively safe site for the deposition of toxic waste, and Quebec has set down very rigid conditions for installation and operation of the Stablex plant.

The larger question to which both Quebec and Stablex must address themselves, though, and the one which STOP has been emphasizing, is what must be done to reduce the amount of toxic waste produced.

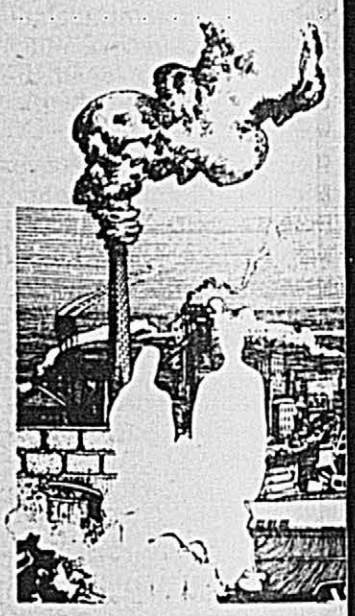
STOP also wants greater and more immediate attention to be given to the implementation of recycling methods and to a lessening of reliance on storage of chemical wastes.

Charles Mallory of STOP feels that the government is not working hard enough in the above two areas:

"They say that they have a comprehensive policy (for toxic waste regulation and reduction) but you ask them what they're doing about it and...zilch."

Mallory suggests that the government introduce programs which use tax money to reduce toxic waste.

Gazette reporter William Marsden, who originally investigated the Blainville controversy, said in a telephone conversation that the story was "a dead issue". That remains to be determined by how careful Stablex is in disposing the tons of toxic waste it will treat in the next few years.





Stacks: the "smoking gun" of the acid rain conspiracy.

Acid rain: storm clou

by Peter Morgan

Acid rain is soaking the world in sheets of ecological destruction. From subtle distortions in the delicate eco-systems of remote lakes, to the damage caused to ancient monuments and modern buildings, the rain of death is only just beginning.

Politically, the effects of acid rain could prove to be no less fatal, dampening international relations and threatening to wash away conventional economics.

Acid rain is formed when chemicals released into the atmosphere by industrial and automobile emmissions react with water. Sulfur dioxide (SO_2) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) react to form sulfuric and nitric acids which then fall as one of three forms of acid rain. The deposits take the form of snow, rain, or simply dry chemicals which are left behind on buildings and the ground.

People, however, are not the only cause of acid rain. It has been occuring naturally since the beginning of time. For instance, Mount St. Helens released 400,000 tons of sulphur dioxide when it erupted in May 1980.

This pales into insignificance when compared with the 100 million tons of sulfur man dumps on the enviornment annually. Of that total, Canada contributes 5 million tons, and has the dubious distinction of having Inco's 400 metre high smokestack in its own backyard. The stack spews out 1 per cent of the worlds total (natural and man made) sulfur emissions.

Acid storms have pH of 2.4

The degree of acidity is measured using the pH scale, which ranges from acid at 0 to base at 14. Distilled water is neutral at 7. Rain is slightly acidic under normal conditions with a pH of 5.6. Because the scale is logarithmic, acid rain with a pH of 4.6 is ten times more acidic than normal rain.

One individual storm in Pitlochry, Scotland on April 10, 1974 had a pH of 2.4, about the same as lemon juice. In 1967 the annual pH of rain at De Bilt in the Netherlands was 3.7.

Typical rain in eastern Canada has a pH of 4.6, as compared with pH readings of over 6, measured 180 years ago. Those readings were taken by scientists who calculated the pH of snow that fell in the industrial revolution's infancy, and was subsequently frozen into the ice sheets of Greenland.

In Ontario, several hundred lakes are already dead, with another 48,000 that will die by the year 2000 unless preventative measures are taken, according to Enviornment Canada. In Québec, 1300 lakes are on the brink of death.

A dead lake has only a thick layer of algae on the bottom. Most plant and animal life are killed because they cannot survive in the acidic water.

Damage to forests and crops is less obvious, but it is almost certain that acid rain causes similar destruction on land.

The scope of the problem is shown by the disguised nature of the effects of the rain. One of these is leaching of toxic metals from the soil, which causes softness in the shells of some bird eggs. Another is the slow erosion of buildings whose external structures eventually become unsafe.

SCIENCE EDITION

The nerve of these people...

...s over North America

by Bill Sheffield

Ronald Reagan has been labelled a modern-day Ebenezer Scrooge bent on axing government budgets. Be that as it may, many analysts are hoping that Mr.Reagan and his Soviet counterpart will be visited by the Ghost of Chemical Warfare Past.

Reports of the use of gas by the Soviets and their allies in Afghanistan, Laos, and Kampuchea so alarmed Congress that it lifted a thirteen year moratorium on the production of chemical arms.

In 1980 Congress allocated funds to build a chemical munitions factory at Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Last May it voted the monies necessary to start that plant producing a new generation of binary nerve gases. The current budget, released on February 10, holds forth the promise of a United States armed to the teeth with chemical weapons that could include cruise missiles filled with nerve gases.

In theory, binary chemical weapons are comprised of two harmless liquids separated until the shell or rocket housing them is fired. The two liquids mix during the projectile's flight, and then the shell explodes, releasing a deadly vapour.

In practice, the supposedly innocuous components of the binary weapon are often almost as noxious as the final product, according to a 1981 *Scientific American* report.

If a new generation of chemical weapons is upon us, does this mean that the "old weapons" were ineffective in their tasks?

The old tricks

Germany launched history's first gas attack on April 22,1915, at Ypres. French colonial troops and Canadian soldiers were the first victims of the yellowish-green chlorine gas that was to cause 15,000 casualties in that battle alone.

Throughout the rest of the First World War, the Germans and the Allies exchanged gas attacks. The opposing armies lauched artillery shells containing phosgene, chlorine, or mustard gas, or simply allowed the wind to blow clouds of the poisons towards enemy lines. The agents mentionned above attack the lungs, causing coughing and retching that rapidly escalates to convulsions and asphyxia. Mustard gas also causes blindness and festering blisters in those victims who receive a less than lethal dose. The Italians unleashed mustard gas against Ethiopian warriors whose spears and arrows were decimating the Italian army of invasion in 1935.

The most potent gas weapons were not developed until the late 1930s. German scientists developed nerve gases that acted upon the junctions in the human body between nerves and muscles.

Electrical signals pass along our nerves. When these impulses reach a nerve/muscle junction, they cause the release of chemical transmitters that make the muscle contract. Natural chemicals called cholinesterases break down the transmitter and allow the muscle to relax.

Nerve gases prevent the muscles from relaxing, and bring their victims at worst immediate death from asphyxiation, and at least permanent neurological damage. The agent can act either through the lungs or the skin. While very minute amounts of nerve gas are astonishingly lethal, a gas mask and Chemical Warfare (CW) suit is adequate protection.

The new tricks

The current furor over the new binary weapons is not so much about new **chemicals** as it is about new means of delivery and enormous proliferation.

The Germans failed to use their advantage in nerve gas warfare in World War II, but the Soviets inherited it when they overran a German nerve gas factory in Poland in 1944. On the other side of the Cold War fence, the United States stockpiled millions of nerve gas shells, land mines, and bombs. The Soviets are believed to have done the same.

In 1969, following the accidental nerve gassing of 6,000 sheep near the Dugway Proving Grounds in Utah, President Nixon declared a moratorium on the production of chemical weapons, and opened negotiations with the Soviet Union that lead to a 1972 accord banning bacteriological warfare.



Mass grave for 6000 sheep killed by errant nerve gas in Utah, 1966.

There is some evidence that the Soviets have reneged on that accord. In 1980, stories surfaced about an outbreak of a particularly virulent strain of anthrax in the Soviet city of Sverdlovsk. The "plague" coincided with an explosion at a building Western intelligence sources suspect of being a germ warfare centre.

Charges of gas attacks against the Afghans have been levelled at the Soviets by both the Reagan and the Carter Administrations. The issue is clouded by the isolation of Afghanistan, and the distinction between "lethal" and "non-lethal" gases. The United States used "non-lethal" defoliants and riot-control agents in Vietnam, chemicals that were later found to cause cancer and birth defects in the population. The revelation that Communist Laos is using gas to exterminate the pro-Western Hmong tribesmen shows that Southeast Asia is suffering from even worse chemical warfare today than in the height of the Vietnam War.

The Canadian connection

Our very own biological and chemical warfare research station is found in Suffield, Manitoba. It covers a thousand square miles of prairie, and is strictly for "defensive" research. Defense Research Establishment Suffield scientists figure out interesting statistics such as the concentration of nerve gases required to kill a man, and then promptly send their findings to Washington under the terms of a defence research agreement linking Britain, Australia, Canada, and the United States. They plan to ask Parliament for $60 million to add to Canadian Forces' CW protection.

Last year it was learned that the Americans tested the defoliant Agent Orange at CFB Gagetown, in New Brunswick, in 1966, with the help and knowledge of Canadian Forces personnel. It was well known at the time that the Americans were making offensive use of the crop-killing defoliant in Vietnam.

From a military point of view, gas warfare only succeeds in killing unprepared troops and civilians. All NATO troops are equipped with CW suits, and the Red Army is notoriously well prepared to fight a chemical war. For this reason, analysts have expressed astonishment over the proposed American manufacturing of three million new nerve gas shells and rockets.

So who loses ? Civilians do. In wartime, they lose because they will not have gas masks or protective gear. In peacetime they lose because they are subjected to environmental risks from stockpiles of poisons (the sea is one good place the military have used to dump leaky nerve gas cannisters). Most tragically, they lose because scientific minds and budgets are tied up in ways to kill human beings, not cure them.

Such results may seem remote and minor, but our interference in the environment often affects things which are apparently unrelated. Ultimately, acid rain is corroding our most valuable resource: the earth.

The storm of problems precipitated by acid rain is not only limited to the environment.

Global weather systems show no respect for international boundaries. Chemicals released in one part of the world are often deposited in entirely different areas, something akin to dropping your garbage in someone else's backyard.

Presently, although some of Canada'a acid rain falls on the United States, most of our acid rain originates in the U.S.A. A similar situation exists in Europe. Scandinavia, for example, receives over 75 per cent of its rain from more industrialized upwind European regions.

Tensions between countries are often created or aggravated by this problem. Canadian and U.S. relations become strained when economic policies, such as President Reagan's decision to encourage the use of coal, substantially increase Canadian fallout.

Animosities might be reduced if solutions were easily found, but they are difficult to come by and often very expensive.

Solutions are expensive and hard to find

Scrubbers to remove sulfur can be included in new plants or added to old plants but costs can often amount to 1/3 of the total bill for construction of the plant. Or lakes can be neutralized with lime-but the treatment of hundreds of thousands of lakes presents enormous practical problems.

The ultimate solution to the problem is to burn less fuel. This seems unlikely with Reaganomics insisting on the conventional wisdom of uninhibited growth.

Regrettably, with growth comes ever increasing energy demands that spew larger and larger amounts of chemicals into the air.

Nor does the solution lie in using nuclear or solar energy to generate power. Industrial production and our insatiable affliction with the automobile will still continue to generate pollution.

What is needed is some sort of economic rethink; one that is not based on incessant growth but reducing present energy consumption (since even staying present energy demands, would be inadequate). Yet as political minds turn to election platforms, preservation of lakes in the Adirondacks or in Northern Québec become far removed from the imagined need to rearm America, or repatriate the Canadian constitution.

So as Uncle Sam uses Canada as his energy spitoon, our lakes become as useless as chewed-out tobacco.

The prospects of solving the acid rain problem remain unlikely, but the clouded environmental skies might clear with the prospects of a more sensible economic climate.

After all, only 20,000 of Swedens 100,000 lakes have been destroyed so far.

With research by **Ken Morrison.**

Profs upset over diminishing sabbaticals...

continued from page 1

mal records and keep the process more above board.

"In the last part of January several MAUT members informed us that their applications had been rejected. That was the first time we knew there were likely to be a number of rejections," he said.

MAUT decided to pursue the issue by telling its members to notify the executive if any sabbaticals were rejected. The executives met with Vice Principals Freedman and Maclachlan to find if any change in the policy had been made.

"There seemed to be a change in either the interpretation or implementation of the requirements. We were told at that meeting that notification of rejections had been given out. It was part of our understanding that a rejection was a request for more information and that every professor had the right to re-apply," Handa said.

At the meeting, MAUT executives were told that certain applicants "had not given specific plans" for the purpose of their leave and that some departments had submitted too many applications.

"They are jumping to conclusions. The procedures have not yet been concluded for this year," said Maclachlan.

Both Handa and Webb-Hearsey emphasized the fact that no financial reason was given by the administration for the rejection of applications.

"When we discussed salary and cutbacks at the beginning of the year, there was no mention that sabbatical leave policy would be effected," said Handa.

Webb-Hearsey said that in the Faculty of Education, 12 applications were submitted and four were rejected. According to other faculty sources, anthropology Professor Peter Gutkind and economics Professor Thomas Velk have sabbatical applications pending, but both refused to comment.

Sabbatical applications are reviewed by Vice Principal Academic Samuel Freedman, Vice Principal Graduate and Research Studies Gordon Maclachlan, Principal Johnston and the chairperson and dean of the applicant's department.

Goodbye Regalado...

continued from page 1

saying that there was no choice but to carry out the required legal sanctions against Regalado.

"Regalado will have the opportunity to find another country," said Axworthy.

But in Heap's view, that answer is insufficient.

"It's certainly not good enough to have a man's life and safety depend upon a single report," said Heap.

Boivin said that even if Regalado is not sent back to "his certain death in El Salvador", the issue is not over.

"This person will be marked for the rest of his life, harassed by the police and followed through the rest of the world," said Boivin.

As for Regalado, his outlook is relatively positive, said Saint-Pierre. "He is going to stay and prove his innocence. He won't leave voluntarily, even if it means staying in jail."

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Yellow Door Coffee House
Penny Lang, with guest Daniel Heikalo. Sunday - Children's Concert with Penny Lang, 2:30 p.m. Sunday nights are open stage nights - come down and play! 3625 Aylmer.

Fr. Can studies...

continued from page 1

English, a course on ethnic communities, courses on Québec-Canada relations. It's an interdisciplinary centre where people study economics, political science, history, sociology and literature," said Hébert.

The present plight of the Centre is due to the University's general rule of dealing with the cuts through "natural wasteage". Small departments are under an ever-increasing threat of decimation through attrition.

"We don't have to ask whether we will be hurt," said Lamonde, "but to what extent we will be hurt. We must speak in terms of preservation. The injury is more serious in small departments. We lost one full-time professor, Jean-Louis Roy (who became publisher of Le Devoir). One resignation in the English department means less than what that did to us."

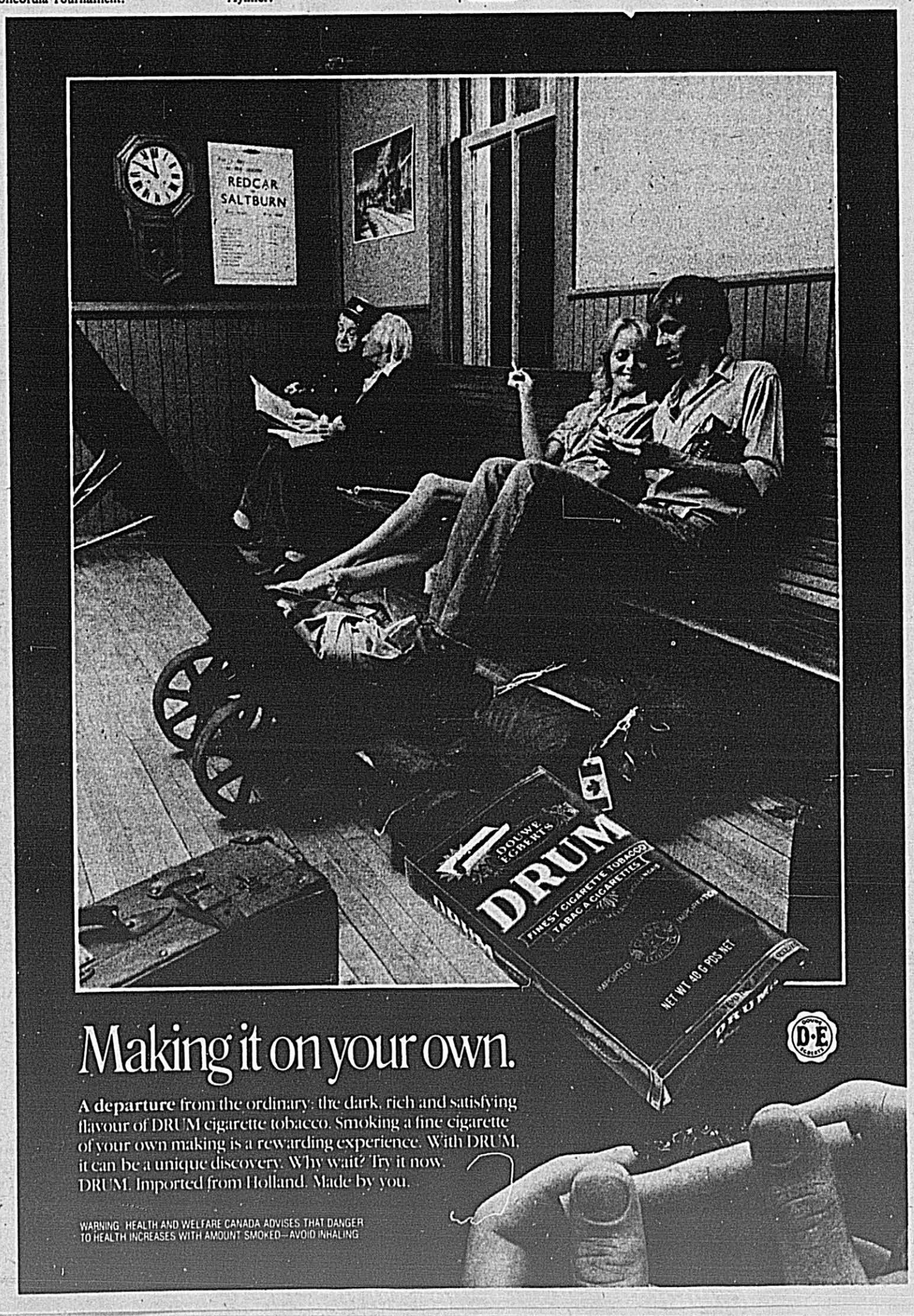
According to Hébert, the administrative assistant whose job is being eliminated has worked for the centre for its 19 years of existence. The assistant could not be reached for comment.

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Albert Einstein

José, can you see?

Cayetano Carpio,leader of one of the largest organizations which comprise the FMLN (El Salvador's guerrilla army),has seen it happen. Helicopters carrying North American advisers have shot and killed six and eight year old children fleeing on the ground.

Carpio writes in February ninth's New York Times:

The Reagan government is actually discrediting its people...the North American people don't deserve this image.

It's a tempestuously disturbing issue, one which American politicians find too inconvenient to adress: How does a country based on civil liberties reconcile this with the support it gives to a repressive,in some cases murderous, regime?

The situation is by no means a paradox;freedom at home does not imply a congruent foreign policy. After all,the American foreign policy is dominated by economic,not social,needs. When American corporations seek to expand their inventories by investing in states "conducive" to their capitalist needs,the American government finds itself trapped in the contradiction of defending repression in this hemisphere while condemning it in the Soviet-dominated East.

American citizens are then compelled to use their freedom by protesting their governement's foreign endeavors when they blatantly contravene the principles by which the country presumably adheres. The country is therefore caught in a moral dilemma.

The inhabitants of countries where the U.S. intervenes do not experience the freedoms which Americans take for granted. Until U.S. presidents understand this,they will fail to gain the support of Latin Americans. To blindly label the FMLN as "terrorist" is to sully a liberation group pluralist in makeup, unlike the "centrist" regime of the traitorous Duarté.It further alienates the masses who are in the process of eliminating a tyranny.

Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains.America yearns to be loved,and everywhere she is despised.

Steven Yudin

Studsoc, 1984

19 February, 1984, Union Building, 3480 McTavish Street: A loud knock on the door of the Students' Society president's office. Squeak of a patent leather shoe, tweed sleeve of a jacket, turns the handle. "We're running things now," says the lipless gentleman from the F. Cyril James Building. A student puts a pen into his pocket, "Just let me grab my blow dryer," steps up to the doorway and out into the empty lobby of the Union building.

The University is now your Students' Society.

There were no elections, there were no votes cast, there were no candidates anyways.

But there will still be beer bottles on the tables of Gertrude's, you'kl still be able to pay 60¢ for french fries in the cafeteria; there will still be a plaque hanging over the International Students' Association's office door, there will still be newspapers lying untouched in McGill halls.

The University would service your needs with the efficiency and purposefulness of an institute of higher organisation.

And when the University jacks your tuition fees to $1500 you'll walk into the Administration building and hand over your cheque. The only person to complain too has his salary, home and limousine paid for out of your tuition dollars.

When the library closes at 4:00 pm, you can walk quietly home. You can sit in the very front of your 600-student class if asking the professor a question interests you.

When your little cousin asks you what it's like to be in university "beholding" the real world, hand him your economics textbook.

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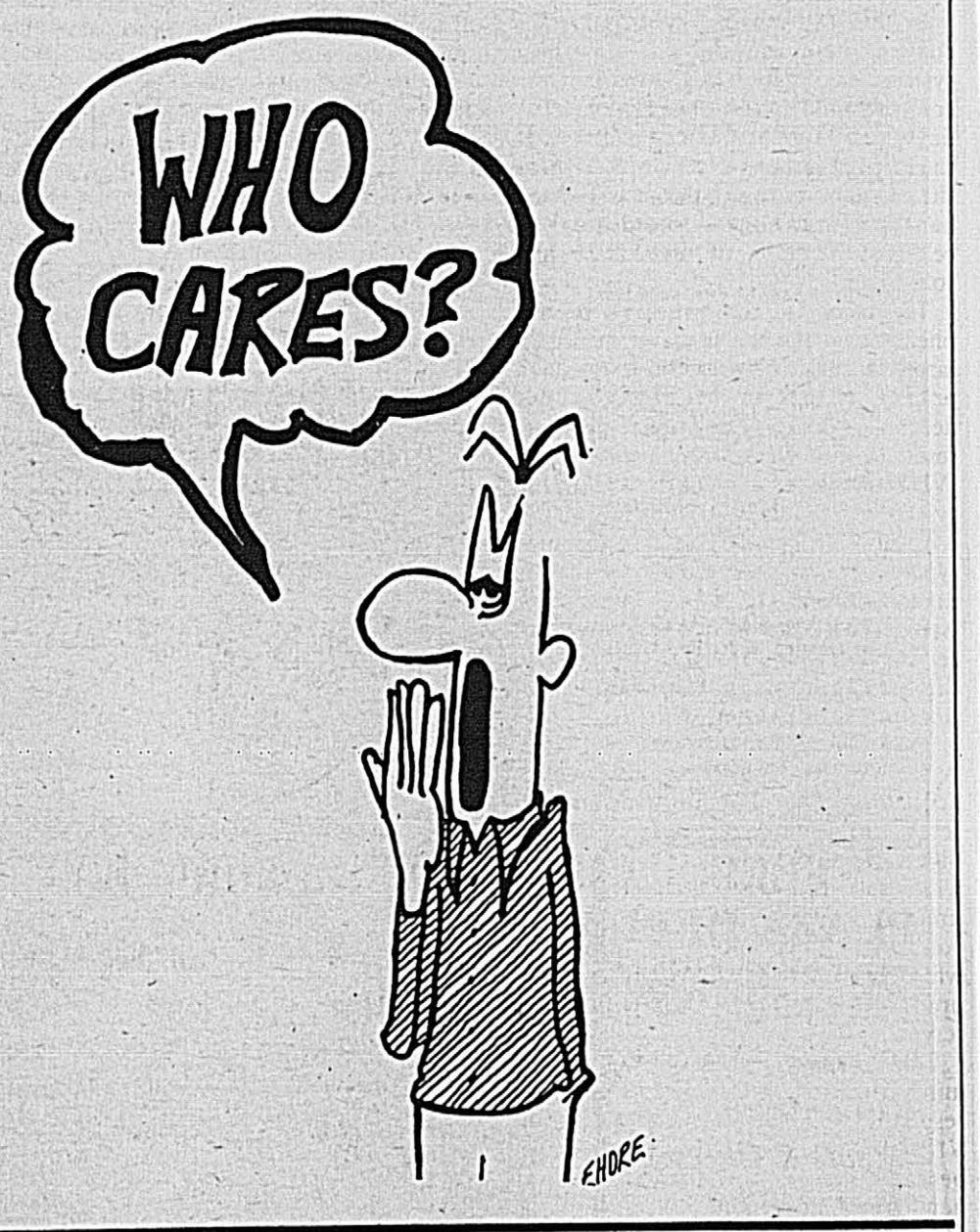
The extreme disinterest of students in this year's elections is no hypothetical situation. Nor is a scenario where 83 per cent of arts students do not vote in the ASUS elections.

With nominations closing yesterday, some of the most important Students' Society positions have been won by acclamation.

The Vice President External Affairs — the McGill student liason with student movements across the country — began his short-lived campaign Wednesday evening when he realized no one else was in the running. Bruce Ness may or may not prove to be an effective student leader; the problem is that no one seems to care.

The administration might as well take over. Our present system of student government does not represent the interests of McGill students. How can it when students cannot meaningfully participate in that system?

Albert Nerenberg Richard Gold Wendy Jones



Hyde Park

Imagine 40 per cent of Canada's land to be under the occupation of a foreign army and almost half of its ppulation refugees.

This is happening to an independent country, a member of the U.N. and the Commonwealth, like Canada, and a member of the non-aligned countries.

For almost eight years now, the Turkish army has been occupying 40 per cent of Cyprus, refugiating half of the Cypriots in their own country. Furthermore, the families of 2,500 missing persons are kept in agony and despair during this time for their beloved ones.

The United Nations have repeatedly voted resolutions to put an end to this situation.

Turkey ignores every single one of these resolutions and continues the occupation with the support of its western allies. It seems that these countries mention the human rights when they can use them for their interests.

Unfortunately, Canada plays a negative role in the Cyprus problem in spite of its participation in the U.N. peacekeeping forces. It does not take a clear stand in the U.N. general assemblies in favour of the right cause of the Cypriot people's struggle. It supplies large quantities of sophisticated military equipment to the military regime of Turkey.

We, the Greek and Cypriot students of Montréal, express our solidarity with the people of Cyprus for a liberated, independent, territorially integral and disarmed Cyprus.

We ask our fellow Canadian students to do the same and ask the Canadian government to stop using our taxes for the supply of guns that are used against the Cyprus people and to take a clear position on the problem.

Freedom to Cyprus!

Hellenic-Canadian Solidarity Committee for Cyprus
McGill Hellenic Association

Hyde Park is a free forum for expression of opinion open to all members of the McGill community. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. We ask that you submit your copy typed and under 600 words in length. The opinions expressed in Hyde Park do not necessarily represent those of the Daily staff.

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SCIENCE EDITION

VDT: Manager's dream, worker's nightmare

by Steven Yudin

In this fast-moving industrial roller coaster some call the free enterprise system, information is the number one commodity. Time *is* of the essence in today's corporate world, especially with the rapid expansion of service industries; the absence of up-to-date data could bankrupt a company as competitors accelerate the rate of machinery obsolescence.

Technology's contribution to this phenomenon is the integrated circuit, largely a result of progress in the high priority sectors of the previous two decades — military and space program research. The Visual Display Terminal (VDT) serves as a computerized filing system which has revolutionized office work. The small, computerized typewriters are used by 250,000 Canadians and over ten million Americans. Banks, hospitals, newspapers and other service operations use VDTs to facilitate the dissemination, and maximize utilization, of information.

The VDT operates like a television set. A vacuum tube is specially designed to accomodate a phosphouros-coated screen and a source of electrons. Under high voltage, the cathode (electron gun), which scans the screen as much as fifty times a second, is stimulated by manual controls. It then shoots off electrons, which interact with the coated screen to produce light images — the letters on the screen.

The rapid advancement in miniaturization and cost-cutting has resulted in a massive proliferation of VDTs in recent years. The *Daily* recently became the first Canadian college newspaper to operate on them.



Since 45% of the work force will be affected by automation in the coming decade, the effect upon their health is a subject of studies by unions, governments and universities.

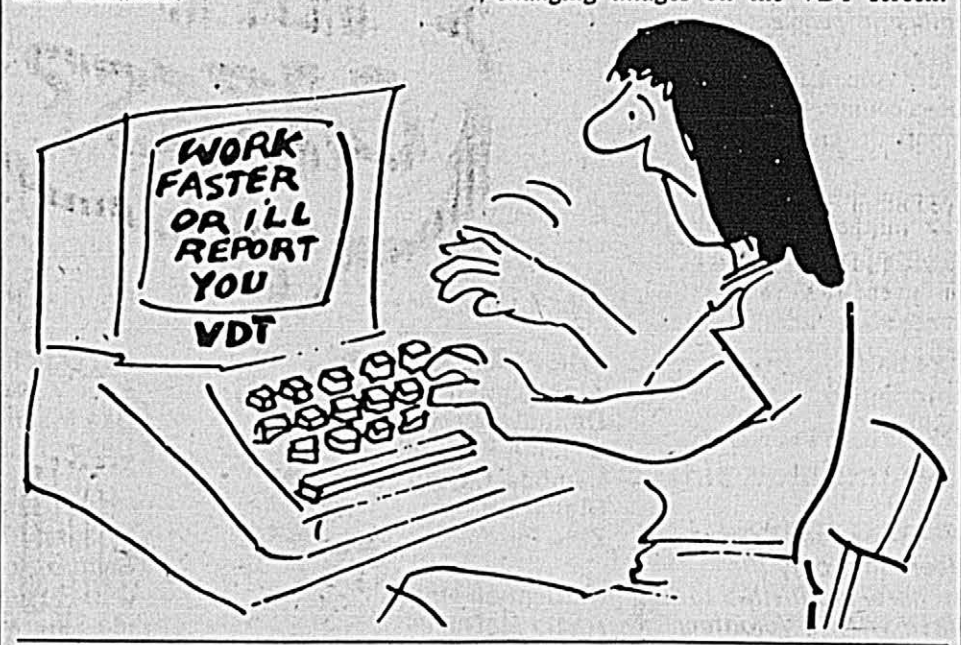
VDTs emit low level radiation, which some scientists contend should classify them as a hazard. In 1980, four Toronto Star reporters gave birth to children with defects within a three month period. The reporters had all worked on VDTs in the first few months of their pregnancies - the time when the fetus is most susceptible to defects.

Although the evidence in this and other cases is circumstantial, manufacturers who had denied responsibility subsequently installed protective shields and said they had "corrected the problem." Scientists are presently embroiled in a debate over the danger of low-level radiation.

The government, which is interested in dissipating concern over the effect of VDTs, released a ten year study which claims that VDTs emit no x-rays since the glass absorbs them, rendering them harmless. The study says that the situation has led to "much unnecessary concern" about the units.

The VDT's poor design is in part responsible for some common ailments - eye damage and backaches (poor posture resulting from the design can cause spinal damage).Only ninety minutes of work can result in eyestrain. After six months on the job in 1977, two New York Times copy editors developed cataracts which their opthamologist called a result of a radiant energy injury. Since the radiation emitted did not exceed the accepted standard of ten milliwatts, their grievance was rejected. The standard was changed in 1981 to one tenth that level.

Eye damage may result from the constant contraction of the ciliary muscles, which are forced to accomodate to the changing images on the VDT screen.



VDT usage has introduced an assembly line mentality into the office ...

The VDT operator also tends to blink less, causing the eye to dry up and suffer irritation. Since the machines affect six out of ten people who are susceptible to vision impairment, a study by the U.S. National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety showed that 91% of workers suffer from eyestrain and 71% from blurred vision — twice the rate of non-users.

The same study showed that VDT users suffered from neck problems 50% more than non-users, twice as many workers faint (36%) and one third are more fatigued, nervous and irritable than usual. VDT users, according to Toronto's Labour Council, may suffer from over fifty health problems — including a *loss in one's sex drive.*

Perhaps more disturbing are the social ramifications. VDT usage has introduced an assembly-line mentality into the office. Workers are tied to the machine, which can monitor output and literally control the worker. Those who can make decisions by changing the machine's functioning, taking periodic leaves, adjusting brightness and other characteristics of the machine, feel much less stress than others who are the proverbial cog in the machine.

However, the vast majority of VDT users have little or no control over their working hours, as they rely asnd wait on the instructions given to them. Employers are able to closely watch the output and speed of workers; in effect, Big Brother has entered the wrokplace. These circumstances have resulted in increasing alienation and stress on the labourer, as the pressure to accomplish the monotonous work increases.

A British telephone worker reports that *when you get home you feel tired and tense and irritable. All the girls here complain about headaches and waking up in the morning with puffy eyes. Sometimes when you're working you get very dizzy and feel you have to have a break.*

She noted that an opthamologist said he'd received patients "practically every day with problems from working with VDTs."

A major sociological problem is the negative impact the system has on office relations. Social contact with workers is virtually eliminated. This isolation led Swedish telephone operators to successfully fight for the placement of their desks in a circle, rather than side by side, to enable them to converse with each other.

Clauses in North American union contracts often require management to pay for eye exams and eyeglasses. In Norway, Sweden and some British union locals, the maximum work time on VDTs is four hours daily and improved environment conditions — proof that workers regard the system as a threat to their physical and mental well-being.

In the United States, telephone operators are victims of drug abuse and alcoholism. Many claim that AT&T has handed out valium and other drugs without prescription to protect them from accusations. These workers suffer from the same symptoms as assembly line workers.

The December issue of Canadian Dimension notes that *the historic tendency of capitalism has been to take human labour and separate the mental conception from its manual execution (so that) the humans performing the steps become part of a huge machine of production.*

An inherent part of our economic system — hierarchy characterized by management manipulation of workers — is therefore strongly reinforced by the advent of such technology, at least in its capitalist mode of implementation.

VDTs also enable employers to keep wages low since the minimal skills are needed to perform efficiently. It succeeds in taking away variety from work, thereby contributing to worker loss of self-esteem.

It appears that such technology has enabled man's grasp to exceed his reach. Until those who exercise control over the implementation of modern inventions consider the dehumanizing and debilitating effects they have on individuals, society will suffer under their influence as much as it progresses.

This issue was produced at great risk to their health by:
Bill Sheffield
Richard Gold
G.P.G.
Brahm Pascal
Chris Cavanagh
Steven Yudin

Next issue: Cancer

Carnival '82 WING IT

CARNIVAL '82

McGILL PROGRAM BOARD

A NOTE OF THANKS FROM WINTER CARNIVAL '82 AND ITS CO-CHAIRPERSONS MAISIE CHEUNG AND ANGELE MULLINS TO ALL STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE CARNIVAL EVENTS AND SPECIAL THANKS TO...

OUR SPONSORS:
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L'Erabliere La Goudrelle
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THE WINGs TEAMS:
Dekes
Frat Rats
Action Potentials
The Unconformities
Radio McGill
Zeta Psi

All Volunteers (not only the ones listed here) are invited to the combined WINGs-Volunteer Party tonight. Pick up info and directions soon in Union room B07.

DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE:
Diane Kirkwood
Micheline Kroll
Cathie Sheeran
Maureen Tobin

STUDENTS' SOCIETY
Leslie Copeland
Denise Despres
Suzanne Mantha
Jon Shifman
Earle Taylor
Albert Vascovics

THE FRATERNITIES:
Alpha Gamma Delta
Delta Kappa Epsilon
Gamma Phi Beta
Lambda Chi Alpha
Sigma Chi
Zeta Psi

McConnell Hall
Radio McGill
Camera Club
Outing Club
Chess Club
Old McGill

SPECIAL PEOPLE:
John Bledsoe
Nicole Bourque
André Buteau
Bob Cheng
Andy Cherna
Fiona Graham
Nalin Gupta
Judith Hayes
Bruce Hicks
Judy Iklé
Adrienne Jones
Douglas Karpman
Helena Koa
Pat Lapointe
Paul Mason
Dan Macoosh
Debby Nathanson
Steve Orleans
Roger Osmond
Melissa Philips
Sandra Rock
Carl Rosenthal
Ida Salera
Rick Shousha
Carolyn Stamegna
Bruce Williams

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL SYMPOSIUM
"WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?"
SYMPOSIUM FÉDÉRAL-PROVINCIAL
"QUELLE DIRECTION PRENDRONS NOUS?"

(All events will take place in the University Centre, 3480 McTavish Street, Montréal, Québec.)
(Tout les événements se tiendront dans le Centre Universitaire à 3480 rue McTavish, Montréal, Québec)

FEB. 19th MORNING (FRI.)

Hospital Insurance And Medicare

Director General of the Medical Association of Quebec
Président du Conseil des Syndicats Nationaux (CSN)
Minister of Health and Welfare, Government of Canada
Department of Economics, McGill University

Room 301, 10 a.m.
local 301



MONIQUE BEGIN

Dr. Louis-Joseph Roy
Norbert Rodrigue
The/L'Honorable Monique Bégin
Chair/Présidence Prof. L. Soderstrom

LE 19 FEV., VENDREDI MATIN

Assurance-Hospitalization et Soins Médicaux

Directeur général de l'Association médicale du Québec
président du Conseil des Syndicats Nationaux
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